

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 048686

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ ROC: LJMOSE: BDS

3/15/73 EX22209

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R 161433 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T STATE 048686

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, XC

SUBJECT: ROC AMBASSADOR' S CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY PORTER

REF: A. STATE 044758; B. STATE 046775

1. DURING MARCH 14 MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY PORTER, ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN RECEIVED BRIEFING ON PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM REQUESTED REF A. SHEN' S CONCERNS CENTERED ON CONTINUED INFILTRATION FROM NVN, DANGER OF NEW OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES, RATIONALE FOR CHOICE OF PARTICIPATING PARTIES AT PARIS, BEHAVIOR OF PRC REPRESENTATIVES THERE, WHETHER US FORCE LEVEL ON TAIWAN WAS RAISED, AND MEANING OF SVN RIGHT TO SELF- DETERMINATION. SHEN ALSO REITERATED THAT ROC RESERVED POSITION ON US/ PRC AGREEMENT ON FROZEN ASSETS AND CLAIMS.

2. AS PROMISED REFTELS, ROC AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN
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PAGE 02 STATE 048686

WAS PROVIDED GENERAL BRIEFING ON PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM SETTLEMENT BY UNDERSECRETARY PORTER DURING MARCH 14 COURTESY CALL. CONCERNING THE PRESENT VIETNAM SITUATION, THE UNDERSECRETARY MENTIONED SOME IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. AT THE SAME TIME THE UNDERSECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF ACTIVITY ON THE HO TRAIL. WE ARE CAREFULLY WATCHING THIS MOVEMENT TO DETERMINE HANOI'S INTENT. POSSIBILITY OF A RENEWAL OF LARGE SCALE HOSTILITIES IS ALWAYS KEPT IN MIND, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT SEE THIS PRESENTLY AS A PROBABILITY.

3. SHEN SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WONDERED ABOUT RATIONALE FOR CHOICE OF TWELVE PARTIES PARTICIPATING AT PARIS. NOTED ABSENCE OF THAIS, AUSTRALIA, NZ. UNDERSECRETARY REPLIED LIST OF INVITEES WAS RESULT OF NEGOTIATION; US WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MORE ASIAN PARTICIPATION.

4. SHEN INQUIRED ABOUT PRC ATTITUDES AT CONFERENCE, AND WHETHER US FORCE LEVELS ON TAIWAN WERE RAISED. UNDERSECRETARY DESCRIBED NEGOTIATION AS PRIMARILY BETWEEN US SIDE AND DRV, WITH PRC AND USSR FOLLOWING DRV LEAD AND RATIFYING ITS DECISIONS. TAIWAN WAS NOT MENTIONED.

5. THERE SEEMED INCONSISTENCY, SHEN SAID, ON THE MATTER OF FUTURE STATUS OF SVN; THE AGREEMENT REFERRED TO SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF VN, BUT THEN SPOKE OF RIGHTS OF SELF- DETERMINATION. UNDERSECRETARY SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT PEOPLE OF SVN WERE TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF SELF- DETERMINATION IN RESPECT TO THEIR FUTURE. AGREEMENT DID NOT PREJUDGE THEIR DECISION ON FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS TO NVN.

6. SHEN RAISED " AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" BETWEEN SECRETARY ROGERS AND CHI PENG- FEI, SAYING ROC HAD EXERCISED ITS RIGHT TO DIFFER. ROC FELT ASSETS IN QUESTION MIGHT WELL BELONG TO CITIZENS OF ROC OR TO ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED WHEN ROC WAS GOVERNMENT IN CONTROL OF MAINLAND. THEREFORE ROC RESERVES RIGHTS TO ASSERT ITS CLAIMS. HE WANTED THE RECORD CLEAR, HE ADDED. UNDERSECRETARY AFFIRMED THAT USG HAD NOTED ROC POSITION, WHICH WAS FOR IT TO DECIDE UPON.

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PAGE 03 STATE 048686

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE048686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LJMOSER: BDS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730330/aaaahwpj.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971210
Subject: ROC AMBASSADOR' S CALL ON UNDER
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TW, XC
To: AIT TAIPEI
HONG KONG
PARIS
SAIGON
TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

